CLAIMS:

1. A computer implemented method of detecting cash register employee theft comprising the steps of:

recording cash register transactions during a time period;

associating each recorded cash register transaction with an employee;

calculating the employee performance with respect to at least one cash register transaction data category; and

comparing the calculated employee performance to a second calculated employee performance for the at least one transaction data category.

2. The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the step of comparing comprises graphing the calculated employee performance and the second calculated employee performance.

3. The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the second calculated employee performance comprises a plurality of calculated employee performances for the at least one transaction data category taken from the same time period from previous work days.

4. The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the second calculated employee performance comprises an average of all recorded employee performances for the at least one transaction data category from a selected time period.

5. The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the at least one transaction data category is selected from the group comprising

overages and shortages, average no sales per customer, average of voids per customer, average refunds per customer, average void amount per customer, average refund amount per customer, average customers per hour, average number of gallons of gasoline per hour, average taxable sales per customer, average taxable sales per hour, average sales with fuel, average taxable sales per shift, average cigarette units

per customer, cigarette volume, average lottery sales per total sales, or average time per transaction.

6. A computer implemented method of identifying cash register employee theft comprising the steps of:

storing cash register transaction data in a database, the data comprising an employee PIN and a transaction completion time;

calculating from the stored transaction data at least one transaction data type for the employee PIN from a selected time shift;

comparing the at least one transaction data type to a standard for the selected time shift; and

assigning a score to the employee PIN based on the comparison.

7. The computer implemented method of claim 6 wherein,

the standard is calculated by averaging the at least one transaction data type for the selected time shift for a number of previously stored shifts.

8. The computer implemented method of claim 6 wherein the at least one transaction data type is selected from the group comprising

overages and shortages, average no sales per customer, average of voids per customer, average refunds per customer, average void amount per customer, average refund amount per customer, average customers per hour, average number of gallons of gasoline per hour, average taxable sales per customer, average taxable sales per hour, average sales with fuel, average sales without fuel, average cigarette units per customer, cigarette volume, average lottery sales per customer, or average time per transaction.

9. The computer implemented method of claim 6 wherein the score is assigned based on the amount of deviation from the standard.

10. The computer implemented method of claim 9 wherein the score is assigned based on the amount of deviation from the standard for a plurality of transaction data types.

11. A computer programmed to identify possible employee theft comprising:

means for identifying an employee operating a cash register;

means for receiving and storing transaction data generated by the cash register;

means for calculating the employee's performance with respect to at least one type of the transaction data; and

means for comparing the employee performance with other employee performances.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the cash register comprises the programmed computer.

13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the programmed computer is linked to the cash register by a local area network.

14. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the programmed computer is linked to the cash register via a wide area network.

15. A computer implemented method of controlling cash inventory in a cash register comprising the steps of:

tracking an inventory of cash denominations;

recording each cash denomination amount tendered by a customer during a transaction; and

indicating each cash denomination amount to tender as change to complete the transaction.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of automatically dispensing denominations as change for the transaction.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of automatically dispensing denominations comprises automatically dispensing coins as change.

18. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of providing a key to optionally indicate other than cash has been tendered in the transaction.

19. A computer programmed to control the cash inventory in a cash register comprising:

means for tracking an inventory of cash denominations;

means for indicating each cash denomination amount tendered by a customer during a transaction; and

means for indicating each cash denomination amount to tender as change to complete the transaction.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising an automatic coin dispenser coupled to the computer for dispensing the correct number of each denomination of coins required to complete the transaction.